

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

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1. (Original) An image processing apparatus comprising:  
color conversion means for converting a first color image signal that does not contain a black color component, into a second color image signal that does not contain a black component;

blackening processing means for adding a black component to the second color image signal to thereby create a third color image signal; and

compression means for compressing the third color image signal on the basis of a frequency conversion system.

2. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

As decoding means for decoding the third ~~second~~ color image signal compressed by the compression means, on the basis of the frequency conversion system; and

image forming means for forming, on a predetermined medium, an image based on the third ~~second~~ color image signal decoded by the decoding means.

3. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

the first color image signal is an RGB signal;

the second color image signal is a CMY signal; and

the third color image signal is a C'M'Y'K' signal.

4. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus ~~according to claim 1, further~~ comprising:

compression means for compression a color image signal;

decoding means for decoding the color image signal compressed by the compression means; and

image processing means for selectively executing image processing on the color image signal compressed by the compression means and then decoded by the decoding means, and image processing on a color image signal that has never been compressed.

5. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the image processing means includes:

A3 first color conversion means for converting a first color image signal compressed by the compression means, then decoded by the decoding means and containing no black component, into a second color image signal containing a black component on the basis of a first color conversion system; and

second color conversion means for converting a first color image signal that has never been compressed and contains no black component, into a second color image signal containing a black component on the basis of a second color conversion system that differs from the first color conversion system.

6. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising:

image reading means for reading a document and supplying a first color image signal corresponding to the document; and

control means for causing, when a first mode is set, the first color image signal supplied from the reading means, to be compressed by the compression means, to be stored, to be decoded by the decoding means, and to be converted into the second color image signal by the first color conversion means, the control means also causing, when a second mode differing from the first mode is set, the first color image signal supplied from the reading means, to be

converted into the second color image signal by the second color conversion means.

7. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein:

- the first color image signal is an RGB signal;
- the second color image signal is a CMYK signal;
- the first mode is an electronic sorting copy mode; and
- the second mode is a normal copy mode.

8. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the image processing means includes:

first blacking means for adding, at a first black ratio, a black component to a second color image signal created from a first color image signal that is compressed, then decoded and contains no black component, thereby creating a third color image signal; and

second blacking means for adding, at a second black ratio differing from the first black ratio, a black component to a second color image signal created from a first color image signal that has never been compressed and contains no black component, thereby creating a third color image signal.

9. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising:

image reading means for reading a document and supplying a first color image signal corresponding to the document;

color conversion means for converting the first color image signal into a second color image signal; and

control means for causing, when a first mode is set, the first color image signal supplied from the reading means, to be compressed by the compression means, to be stored, to be decoded by the decoding means, to be converted into

the second color image signal by the color conversion means, and to be converted into a third color image signal by the first blacking means, the control means also causing, when a second mode differing from the first mode is set, the first color image signal supplied from the reading means, to be converted into the second color image signal by the color conversion means, and then to be converted into the third color image signal by the second blacking means.

10. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein:

the first color image signal is an RGB signal;  
the second color image signal is a CMY signal;  
the third color image signal is a C'M'Y'K' signal;  
the first mode is an electronic sorting copy mode; and  
the second mode is a normal copy mode.

11. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the image processing means includes:

first blacking means for adding, on the basis of a first blacking system, a black component to a second color image signal created from a first color image signal that is compressed, then decoded and contains no black component, thereby creating a third color image signal; and

second blacking means for adding, at a second blacking system differing from the first blacking system, a black component to a second color image signal created from a first color image signal that has never been compressed and contains no black component, thereby creating a third color image signal.

12. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising:

image reading means for reading a document and supplying a first color image signal corresponding to the document;

color conversion means for converting the first color image signal into a second color image signal; and

control means for causing, when a first mode is set, the first color image signal supplied from the reading means, to be compressed by the compression means, to be stored, to be decoded by the decoding means, to be converted into the second color image signal by the color conversion means, and to be converted into a third color image signal by the first blacking means, the control means also causing, when a second mode differing from the first mode is set, the first color image signal supplied from the reading means, to be converted into the second color image signal by the color conversion means, and then to be converted into the third color image signal by the second blacking means.

13. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein:

- the first color image signal is an RGB signal;
- the second color image signal is a CMY signal;
- the third color image signal is a C'M'Y'K' signal;
- the first mode is an electronic sorting copy mode;
- the second mode is a normal copy mode; and

one of the first and second blacking systems is a UCR (Under Color Reduction) system, and the other of the first and second blacking systems is a GCR (Gray Component Removal) system.

14. (Canceled).

15. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus ~~according to claim 14, further~~ for recognizing the type of an image on the basis of predetermined image data, and changing image processing to be executed on image data on the basis of the recognized type of the image, the image processing apparatus comprising:

recognition means for recognizing the type of an image corresponding to a first color image signal that contains no black component;

color conversion means for converting the first color image signal into a second color image signal that contains no black component;

first blacking means for adding, at a first black ratio, a black component to the second color image signal when the recognition means has recognized that the first color image signal indicates a letter image, thereby creating a third color image signal; and

second blacking means for adding, at a second black ratio differing from the first black ratio, a black component to the second color image signal when the recognition means has recognized that the first color image signal indicates a photograph image, thereby creating a third color image signal.

16. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 15, wherein:

the first color image signal is an RGB signal;

the second color image signal is a CMY signal; and

the third color image signal is a C'M'Y'K' signal.

17. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus ~~according to claim 14, further~~ for recognizing the type of an image on the basis of predetermined image data, and changing image processing to be executed on image data on the basis of the recognized type of the image, the image processing apparatus comprising:

recognition means for recognizing the type of an image corresponding to a first color image signal that contains no black component;

color conversion means for converting the first color image signal into a second color image signal that contains no black component;

first blacking means for adding, on the basis of a first blacking system, a black component to the second color image signal when the recognition means

has recognized that the first color image signal indicates a letter image, thereby creating a third color image signal; and

second blacking means for adding, on the basis of a second blacking system differing from the first blacking system, a black component to the second color image signal when the recognition means has recognized that the first color image signal indicates a photograph image, thereby creating a third color image signal.

18. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein:

the first color image signal is an RGB signal;

the second color image signal is a CMY signal;

the third color image signal is a C'M'Y'K' signal;

the first mode is an electronic sorting copy mode;

the second mode is a normal copy mode; and

one of the first and second blacking systems is a UCR (Under Color Reduction) system, and the other of the first and second blacking systems is a GCR (Gray Component Removal) system.

19. (New) An image processing apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising:

scanning means for scanning a document to provide the color image signal;

control means for controlling operation of the image processing apparatus;

a selector for providing, based on a control signal provided by the control means, the color image signal to one of the compression means and the image processing means.

20. (New) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the third color image signal that has been compressed by the

compression means creates a fourth color image signal, the image processing apparatus further comprising:

image processing means for selectively executing image processing on the fourth color image signal that has been compressed by the compression means, and for selectively executing image processing on the third color image signal that has not been compressed by the compression means.

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